

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY:JLR

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY

SMITHSONIAN/NASM:MCOLLINS

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R 231923Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOYUZ SPACECRAFT FOR US NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE
MUSEUM

1. DEPARTMENT IS POUCHING EMBASSY (ATTN SCICOUNSELOR) FILE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM (NASM) DIRECTOR MICHAEL COLLINS AND SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OFFICIALS CONCERNING NASM REQUEST FOR THIRTY-MONTH LOAN OF SOYUZ SPACECRAFT FOR MUSEUM. TO DATE, SOVIET REPLIES HAVE BEEN NON-COMMITTAL, ALTHOUGH DECEMBER 19, 1975 CABLE FROM IGOR POCHITALIN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ON EXHIBITIONS OF SAS, TO COLLINS STATES "WILL INFORM YOU ABOUT RESULTS (YOUR PROPOSAL) NEAREST JUNCTURE." NASM HOPES SOVIETS WILL PROVIDE AUTHENTIC SOYUZ SPACECRAFT AS PART OF MAJOR EXHIBIT FOR MUSEUM, SCHEDULED TO OPEN JULY 4, 1976. FYI. IF SOVIETS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO MAKE AUTHENTIC SOYUZ AVAILABLE, NASM WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT FULL-SCALE SOYUZ MODEL. END FYI.

2. IN FEBRUARY 19 CONVERSATION WITH COLLINS, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS NOTED THAT SAS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND PREPARATIONS FOR PARTY CONGRESS MAY ACCOUNT IN PART FOR LACK OF
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SOVIET REPLY TO DATE.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE SOVIET
OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN PROMPT, FAVORABLE RESPONSE
TO NASM DIRECTOR COLLINS' REQUEST FOR SOYUZ SPACECRAFT.
DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT POCHITALIN APPLIED FOR VISA TO VISIT
US (MOSCOW 2524) BEGINNING MARCH 16; EMBASSY MAY WISH,
THEREFORE, TO CONTACT POCHITALIN FIRST ON MATTER. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
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Disposition History: n/a
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